

Queen Victoria Hospital

The Plastic Surgery & Jaw Injuries Centre

EAST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX

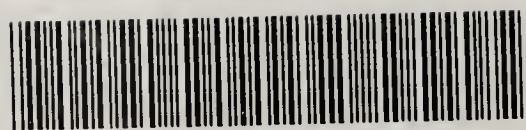
ANNUAL REPORT for 1941



SUPPLEMENTARY
TO THE 53RD ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ended
31st December, 1941

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THE MAXILLO-FACIAL UNIT
QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL
(PLASTIC SURGERY AND JAW INJURY CENTRE)
EAST GRINSTEAD

Surgical Staff :

A. H. McINDOE, Esq., M.Sc., M.S., F.R.C.S., F.A.C.S.
(*Surgeon-in-Charge*)

N. L. ECKHOFF, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.

Wing-Commander A. R. TILLEY, R.C.A.F., M.D., L.M.C.C.

R.A.F. Registrar : Squadron-Leader T. C. HENRY, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

Resident Surgeon : P. H. JAYES, Esq., M.B., B.S.

House Surgeon : R. P. G. SANDON, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeons :

W. KELSEY FRY, Esq., M.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.
(Consultant to the Ministry of Health)

A. C. McLEOD, Esq., D.D.S. (Penn.), B.Sc. (Dent.) (Toronto)
L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

P. RAE SHEPHERD, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

G. J. PARFITT, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

A. H. CLARKSON, Esq.

Anaesthetists :

J. TRUSCOTT HUNTER, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

RUSSELL DAVIES, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.A.

Consulting Ophthalmist :

FREDERICK RIDLEY, Esq., M.B., B.S. (Lond.), F.R.C.S.

Consulting Ear, Nose, and Throat Surgeon :

W. G. SCOTT-BROWN, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Consulting Radiologist :

WALTER ADDEY, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.M.R.E.

Masseuses :

MISS O. JOHNSON, MISS W. N. STEVENSON, MISS J. M. PICK

Radiographer : MISS H. B. DAVIES

Photographers : MISS P. M. LEHMANN (B.R.C.S., Sussex/68), MISS
B. MADDOX (B.R.C.S., Sussex/2).

Matron : MISS C. H. HALL

Bursar : W. GUTHRIE KIRKHOPE, Esq.

Secretary-Superintendent : CAPTAIN W. J. BANHAM, F.H.A.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAXILLO-FACIAL UNIT

During the past year many changes have been made in the Maxillo-Facial Unit which have resulted in a widening of its activities, and great improvement, not only in the ease and efficiency with which the staff can work, but in the standard of comfort to the patients.

The opening of the Convalescent Annexe at St. Agnes' School has enabled the 90 beds in the Unit to be used for a very rapid turnover, and has overcome the time lag which was an important factor in slowing down the operative work. It might be pointed out that the types of injury passing through the Unit are now so diverse that the Ministry of Health has requested that in common with other Units of the same type it should be termed "A Plastic and Jaw Injury Centre," instead of a Maxillo-Facial Unit. This indicates that the scope of our work is not limited to the face but extends throughout the body and covers a much wider field than heretofore. Thus of 1000 cases admitted to the wards recently, 547 were injuries of the face, while 453 were injuries to the other parts of the body. Many of these required close collaboration with general surgical, orthopaedic and neurological colleagues.

From the point of view of equipment considerable alterations have been made during the year. All the wards have been redecorated and furnished throughout, and with the addition of a pleasing colour scheme, new curtains, bed lockers, bed tables, etc., they have been completely revolutionised in appearance and comfort. A dust-proof room for dressings has also been provided at the end of each ward, with a consequent reduction in cross infection and a simplification of the nursing problem. Ward 3 has been divided into two portions, with the addition of separate administrative quarters to deal with the end section. At the same time a double saline bath equipment of the latest type for the treatment of burns has been added to this ward by the Ministry of Health. It has convenient access to the other wards, and has been in active operation for some time with most satisfactory results.

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Stern headphones are now available to all patients, while Mrs. Norman Laski has equipped the entire hospital with a system of amplifiers by means of which concerts and special announcements can be relayed throughout the wards. Both of these amenities have proved a great success.

Recreational facilities have been generously provided by the British Red Cross and Order of St. John War Organisation, in the form of a variety of buildings :—

- (a) A large Recreation Room, Dining Room, and Rest and Reading Room (fully equipped) for Non-commissioned men.

(b) A Recreation Room for Officers.

(c) A Recreation Room for the Women and Children.

These were recently opened officially by Field-Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, Bt., G.C.B., O.M., G.S.T., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. He expressed himself in the following words to the Chairman of the Board of Management :—

“I wonder whether you would ask Mr. Blount to let those responsible at the Hospital know what a deep impression the whole visit made upon me. I thought the Hospital showed every evidence of complete efficiency, and it was pleasing for me as Chairman of the Red Cross and St. John War Organisation to see that what we have been able to do to help in the great work that is being done there has made such a difference to the lives of the patients.”

In order to facilitate the running of the recreation rooms two Stewards have been appointed to keep them in order. This was made possible by the gift of £600 by the Selection Trust Company through the interest of Mrs. S. F. Waterson and Mr. A. D. Storke. Miss Spalding acts as British Red Cross Society Supervisor, and her deep interest in this work is much appreciated by the patients who now make these buildings the centre of their social life.

The Physio-Therapy and Occupational-Therapy Departments have been opened and are now in full operation. This fine building has been made possible by private help aided by a grant from the Ministry of Health. It consists of :—

- (a) Physio-Therapy Department, equipped by the Fishhoek Women's Association of South Africa, again through the interest shown in our activities by Mrs. S. F. Waterson, of South Africa House. The department is run by Miss O. Johnson and Miss W. N. Stevenson, under the direction of Dr. F. S. Cooksey.
- (b) Occupational Therapy Department, in which all forms of remedial, diversional, and occupational work are undertaken from carpentry to fine needlework. This carries on and amplifies the work so well begun by Mrs. George Mappin, and we are fortunate in retaining her help and interest in the running of this new venture, particularly as it is now recognised by the Ministry of Health as an official centre. Miss J. M. Pick and Miss G. Baird control the work in progress, and we would commend to our readers a visit to this department to see the high standard of performance and enthusiasm of the patients.

Recently H.R.H. The Duke of Kent paid a second visit to the Hospital, and as a result of his very complete inspection expressed himself as being “again very impressed with the tremendous achievements made by the staff and wished the Hospital continued success in its wonderful work.”

During the year an interesting experiment was made by the Board of Management in establishing a Welfare Committee to undertake the recreational, educational and diversional care of the patients both inside and outside the wards. Aided by the help of the Board of Management and by the generosity of many friends of the Hospital this Committee has worked tirelessly and with great effect to relieve the boredom of the patients and to make their stay in hospital as pleasant as possible. Some of its activities will be later described.

E.N.S.A. and N.A.A.F.I. concerts have been held regularly in the wards and have been much appreciated. In addition a great many distinguished artists have given generously of their time and energy. Amongst these are :—Bebe Daniels, Ben Lyon, Flanagan and Allen, Frances Day, Evelyn Laye, Douglas Byng, Elizabeth Allen, Jack and Daphne Barker, Celia Lipton, Joyce Grenfell, Carrol Gibbons, Florence Desmond, Jane Carr and Mariane Davies, Inga Anderson, Robert Montgomery, Muriel Lillie, The Radio Three, Billy Milton, Jack Jackson and his Band, Herbert Wilcox, Anna Neagle, Stanley Holloway, and Eric Marshall. Mrs. Kay Petre has been responsible for organising many of these visits and her efforts in this direction have been greatly appreciated.

A great many people have made gifts to the Hospital and to them we would extend our grateful thanks. We would mention in particular :— Lady Hutson, Lady Oppenheimer, Mrs. Domville-Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lyon, Mr. Ronald Colman, Major and Mrs. G. Mappin, Mrs. F. H. Fraser, Mrs. J. A. Dewar, Lady Glendyne, Squadron-Leader Smith Barry, Mrs. Norman Laski, Miss Tilly Marks, Mrs. Israel Sieff, Mrs. G. Simpson, Mrs. J. N. Beach, Mrs. A. Watson, Mrs. M. R. Neatby, Mrs. C. E. Heathcote, Mr. G. Davies, Miss M. Beasley, Miss J. Butler, Mrs. J. B. Roberts, Mrs. E. H. S. Duckworth, Mrs. J. R. Allen, and V.A.D.'s from Edenbridge.

The following organisations have also interested themselves in our activities and to these also we are deeply indebted. The War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Canadian Red Cross, the South African Red Cross, the British War Relief Fund of New York, the Hollywood Division of the British War Relief Fund, the British Red Cross Society of New South Wales, the Salvation Army, and the Felbridge Women's Institute.

The Wards.

No change has been made in the senior staffing of the wards, and these continue to be run by Sister Harrington (Ward 1), Sister Kennet (Ward 2), and Sister Meally (Ward 3). To them, to the regular nursing staff, and to the many V.A.D.'s who have helped, we extend our grateful thanks. Special mention must be made of the way in which the Matron has overcome with tact and efficiency the difficulties of a growing organisation.

The beds per ward were reduced from 38 to 24 in Ward 3, and 32 in Wards 1 and 2.

The Annexe.

This is in the capable hands of Acting Matron Stroud and has enabled us to free the main hospital beds of convalescent patients. With its 50 beds it has very effectively taken the strain off the Main Hospital.

Surgical Department.

During the year 1160 patients have been admitted to the Unit, 749 of whom were new cases. The majority of the patients were drawn from the Armed Forces, but a small number of civilians requiring special treatment have also been included. With the war in Western Europe in a less active phase the percentage of battle casualties and air-raid victims has decreased during recent months, but the Hospital has continued working at full pressure throughout the year. The number of patients requiring re-admission is considerable and progressive. It must be realised that the most desperate and extensive cases are likely to be sent to the Unit and that the reconstructive work will often entail a long series of operations spread over many months. A large number of burns have been accepted and, although modern methods of treatment have done much to reduce the time factor, it is these cases in particular which are likely to occupy the beds for a long period. When the skin has been completely destroyed over large areas of the body surface, the initial period in hospital can hardly be less than three months. During the early stages the patient will be acutely ill and the nursing care will be of paramount importance. Anyone who has nursed a case of severe burns will appreciate the enormous difficulties both from the medical and psychological aspects. The Saline Bath treatment has done much to simplify these problems.

The Plastic treatment in the early stages consists of skin-grafting raw surfaces, but the surgeon does not begin his serious reconstructive work until healing is complete and the patient's general health and morale restored. It may then be necessary to perform as many as twenty operations spaced over a period of two years.

The patient will not be in hospital for the whole of this time and he may actually return to duty between operations. The new recreational facilities should be of special value in helping these patients through the long and trying period of hospital life.

An example of the extensive nature of the repair work is afforded by a man who was grossly disfigured by an aircraft crash. He required four new eyelids, a new nose, new lips and new eyebrows, in addition to numerous grafts to his hands which were contracted and deformed by the burn.

The incidence of burns has been high but many other types of case have come for treatment. There have been penetrating wounds of the face, road accident cases, factory accident cases, and so on. The restoration sometimes demands the grafting of a variety of tissues in addition to skin. A bone graft may be necessary to replace a shot-away portion of jaw, a fat graft to restore the contour of the cheek, or a muscle transplant to restore movement to an injured eyelid.

Theatres.

We have been fortunate in being able to retain substantially the same theatre staff and this has been of tremendous value in producing good team work. Sister Walker and Sister Mullins continue to control the work of the theatres and have been largely responsible for the high degree of efficiency which is a feature of this part of the Hospital.


The second Emergency Theatre has successfully eased the strain on the main Operating Room, and now that it is provided with a new Sterilising Room and new equipment for two operating tables, it is modernised in every respect. It still lacks a separate anaesthetic room, and unfortunately opens directly on to the corridor. 1160 Plastic Operations were performed during the year.

Dental Department.

During the winter and spring of 1941 there was a steady stream of civilian patients with fractured jaws from the bombing of London. This ceased during the early summer. At the Annual General Meeting of the British Dental Association at Reading in August, where the work of this department was shown, papers were presented by Mr. McIndoe, Mr. McLeod and Mr. Shepherd describing the work which had been done at the Centre during the past. There was a very large attendance and the papers were greatly appreciated and a letter of thanks was received from the President of the Association. It was announced that a larger proportion of service casualties would be treated in the Emergency Medical Service Centres. This has resulted in an increase in the number of patients of this type. Approximately 100 cases of severe fractures of the jaw were treated. There were 50 cases requiring special dental appliances after surgical operations in the mouth. The abovementioned cases were in addition to the simpler cases of fractures of the jaws, routine extractions, fillings and dentures necessary for the well-being of the patients of this Hospital. The department has been strengthened by the addition of Mr. G. J. Parfitt, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

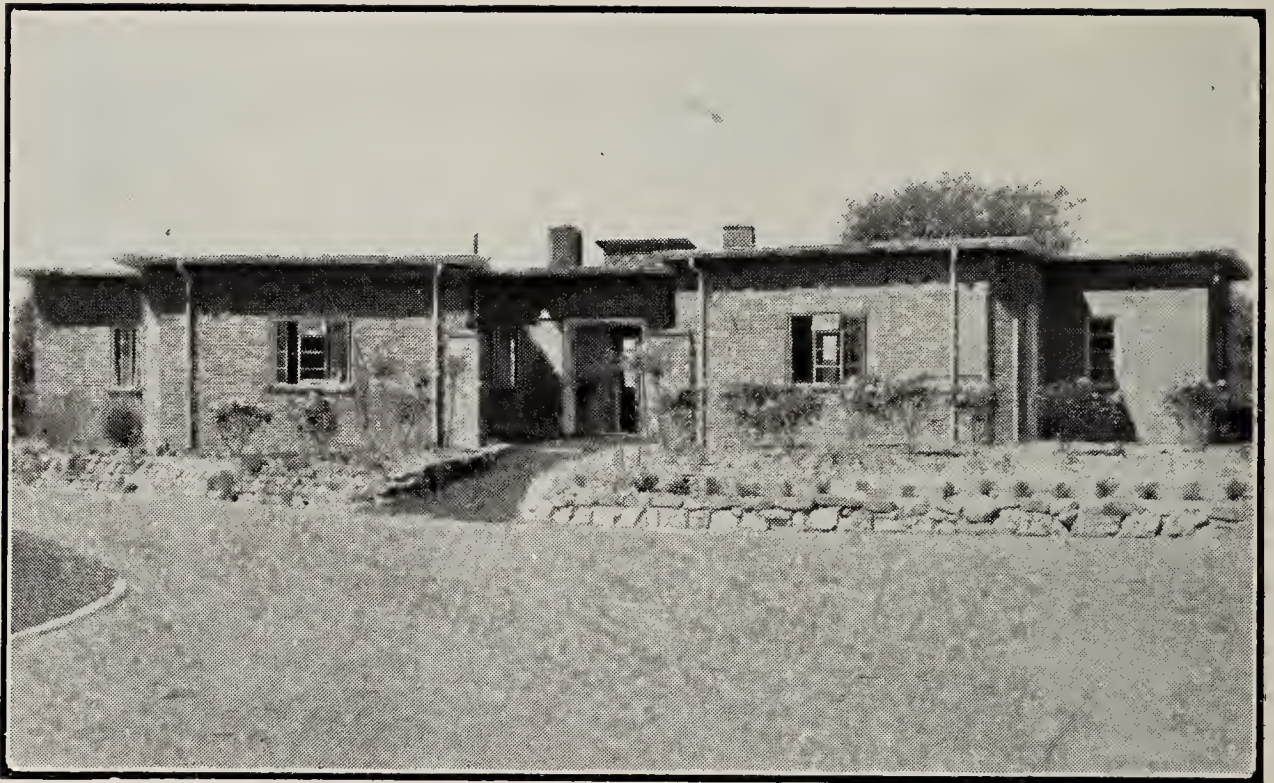
Educational.

The experiences of 1940 and 1941 proved that this Hospital could handle the Civilian and Service casualties in this region of England. It was also obvious that many zones of military activity would be starting in distant parts of the World and that arrange-



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PHYSIO-THERAPY AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENTS



INTERIOR, PHYSIO-THERAPY ROOM



INTERIOR, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ROOM



A SALINE BATH ROOM

ments should be made to anticipate the demand for Surgical and Dental Officers in the Services trained in the treatment of these cases.

At the request of the Directors of the Medical and Dental Services of the Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force, the Staff of the Hospital have conducted courses of instruction, for Surgical and Dental Officers, in the treatment of Plastic and Jaw Injuries. These courses are of two types :—

- (a) An extended course of six months, after which time the Officer returns to his service as a specialist (at a hospital or special centre).
- (b) A short intensive course of two weeks to enable the Officer to return to his unit and carry out the preliminary treatment of these cases and/or advise transfer to a special centre.

Three surgical and four dental officers have been trained in the extended course and returned to duty.

Special instruction in the short courses has been given to 25 surgical and 114 dental officers drawn from the Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force, Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian Armies, United States Navy, and Emergency Medical Service.

Dental Societies.

Several branches of the British Dental Association have been entertained at one-day demonstration meetings in order to allow the members to see modern methods of treatment. In this way the members of the staff have had the opportunity of discussing treatment with those who had experience in the last war.

Dental Students.

Owing to the evacuation of the London Teaching Hospitals there is a shortage of clinical material. In order to help with the teaching of students there have been numerous lecture demonstrations held. The majority of these men will be drafted into the Services very soon after qualification. Thus teaching has formed a large part of the work of the dental department and thrown a very considerable burden on its staff.

The Hospital would like to thank the people of East Grinstead for their help, and in particular, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Murray, in billeting these post-graduate students during their courses.

Nursing Training.

Apart from the Medical and Dental aspect of training, 65 medical orderlies have been trained for periods up to six months in the care and treatment of burns and upon these men the brunt of the hard work in the Burn Unit here and elsewhere falls. In addition, Sisters from all R.A.F. Burn Units have received specialised instructions in burns and their treatment. This has been effected by lectures and demonstrations.

Lady Oppenheimer Pavilion.

One of the most important additions required at the Hospital, to enable the ever-increasing teaching side of the work to be handled adequately, was the provision of a building to house the dental lecture theatre, photographic department, ophthalmic department, records department and medical administrative offices. Fortunately, towards the provision of the new building we secured from Lady Oppenheimer a gift of £1000 which has enabled us to commence construction.

The new block houses most important departments and is designed to fill a long-felt want. Unfortunately, with the present cost of building the initial gift falls very far short of the total amount required ; a further sum of just over £2000 is necessary to meet the cost of building and equipment. Already some of this deficit has been covered by generous help given by Members of the American Club, through the interest of Mr. Robert le Cron. We have embarked on the scheme, being sure that friends of the Hospital who study this report will come to our financial assistance. The whole of the departments enumerated should be in full operation early in July.

Department of Anaesthetics.

This department has been busier than ever. The number of anaesthetics administered has been higher than that of the previous year, a total of 1076.

It is satisfactory to report that this year there have been no pulmonary complications following anaesthesia. Cyclopropane supplies are now plentiful, enabling us to do without Ether and Chloroform, adding greatly to the patients' comfort.

Research work has been done by Dr. Russell Davies on the incidence and causes of post-anaesthetic vomiting ; while Dr. Hunter sent a paper to America in October describing the work and anaesthetic methods used in the Hospital, which was read before the American Dental Association at Philadelphia in November.

Welfare Committee.

The Welfare Committee was formed in October, 1941, with Mr. McIndoe as Chairman, Mr. A. Wagg and Mr. Kirkhope as liaison between the Welfare Committee and the Board of Management, Mrs. N. Laski as Treasurer, and Mrs. F. H. Fraser, Mrs. G. Mappin and Mrs. J. A. Dewar as members. Dr. J. Hunter was later asked to join this Committee.

The members of this Committee have worked extremely hard and accomplished a great deal in the short time. An educational scheme has been started and professional teachers employed in the

following subjects :—French, German, English (for Allied patients), typewriting and shorthand, bookkeeping and accountancy.

Special thanks must be given to Mr. S. C. Redman, A.L.A.A., of Messrs. Richard Place & Co., who has devoted two evenings a week without any remuneration to the bookkeeping and accountancy. One of his pupils who has been invalided out of the Army has been able to obtain an excellent situation through his instruction.

The maximum number of pupils at any one period for the above subjects have been as follows :—German 15, French, 6, English 3, bookkeeping and accountancy 6.

The Air Ministry have been most helpful in providing text books and dealing with any specialised subject required by patients. An R.A.F. Educational Officer visits the Hospital once a week.

The Ministry of Supply very generously gave a Fairchild Packing Case which has been erected as a Carpenters' Shop at the Annexe, and the Welfare Committee has supplied the tools. This has proved most popular with the men.

Personality lectures have been started and the following distinguished visitors have given talks which have been greatly appreciated by the patients. Commander Campbell, R.N., of the B.B.C., Commander T. Woodruffe, R.N., Major-General O. Haydon, D.S.O., and Godfrey Winn.

Bicycles have been supplied for the patients by the R.A.F. Comforts Fund and by friends of Mr. Godfrey Winn.

The British Council have taken a great interest in the Allied patients and weekly periodicals in all languages, gramophone records and endless comforts have been generously supplied by them.

Two entertainments a week during the winter have been organised in the Men's Recreation Hut, taking the form of Dances and Whist Drives, and dancing classes have been provided. Excursions and parties have been arranged for the women as well.

The R.A.F. Comforts Fund, The Hon. Mrs. L. Gamage, The Canadian Red Cross, The English Speaking Union, and Mrs. Matthews' Officers Kit Equipment Centre, have all most generously helped in the welfare of the patients.

The mobile shop which goes round the wards still proves a great attraction and is run at a loss, but the loss is covered by the generosity of The South African Red Cross and Mrs. J. A. Dewar.

A private unrestricted Library has been provided for the Officers by Lady Cullinan of South Africa.

Rehabilitation.

The quickest possible return of the greatest number of fit men into the right field of Active Service is to be considered the true aim of an efficient Hospital. To this end we have directed every

possible effort. But all the physical and mechanical aids to Rehabilitation would be useless without the right spirit behind the scenes. Iron-bound rules and regulations which serve no other useful purpose than to irritate intelligent men and women should be scrapped and replaced by a common sense co-operative plan whereby the patient is made to feel he is part of a service devoted to his best interests and to the accomplishment of his quick return to duty. Some of these rules were framed fifty years ago and exist merely because they have become a weary routine which is passively accepted. At East Grinstead such an attitude of mind is fortunately absent and the result is reflected throughout the institution. An optimistic and hopeful approach by the Medical and Nursing Staff to the most appalling injuries does much to inspire a feeling of confidence between doctor and patient. This is necessary for the successful carrying out of a long-term programme of repair such as occurs in many of these cases. During his lengthy stay in hospital the patient learns much about surgical and nursing technique. His interest and co-operation is valuable and must be stimulated. There should be no waste of time in accomplishing the surgical programme. During this phase the patient is encouraged to grasp the elementary rules of asepsis and to protect his partially-finished operation from cross-infection or injury. The essential waiting periods between operations are explained to him and if it is at all possible a variety of interesting pursuits are encouraged to while away that portion of his hospital stay during which he is incapacitated.

There comes a time in long-term operative work, however, when the most pressing problem is to get the patient out of hospital and to work of a more serious nature. To this end a system of "Work Convalescence" has been instituted at East Grinstead, designed to occupy Service patients between operations and during the convalescent phase before actual return to the various Service units.

By arrangement with the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Aircraft Production patients are now sent to various factories for periods up to three months. Patients are not sent on this work unless they wish to go and the type of work is carefully selected to suit their previous civil or service experience and their actual capacity for it.

This scheme has proved its value and it is now under the control of P/O. G. Philippi, M.C., who was seconded to East Grinstead by the Air Ministry specially for the purpose. It has also been adopted by other Hospitals, particularly those under R.A.F. control, and it bids fair to form a most important part of the rehabilitation of the injured Service patients throughout the country.

The Maxillonians.

Probably as a direct result of the excellent spirit which was fostered in the Hospital during and after the Battle of Britain the patients themselves formed a Club which they called the "Maxillonian Club." Its object was to promote good fellowship and to cement the many friendships which were formed not only between the patients themselves but with the Medical Staff. As its secondary object it had in mind the preservation of this spirit of mutual helpfulness which in many cases will be valuable and necessary after the war. Most of the members of this club are R.A.F. personnel inasmuch as a high proportion of all severely burnt pilots and air crews have passed through the Hospital. During the year a most successful Reunion Dinner was held (at the Whitehall) by some 60 R.A.F. members, some of whom came from stations in Scotland and North England to attend. The guest of honour was the C.-in-C. Air-Chief Marshal Sir Sholto Douglas. It is an excellent commentary on the splendid spirit which exists in the Hospital that such a function could take place. Among the many factors which have contributed to it are the deep interest and sympathy of the Board of Management, under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Edward Blount, the activities of a strong Welfare Committee, and lastly—but possibly as important as any other single factor—the unselfish help and genuine interest of the Community in which the Hospital is placed. Few patients for instance will fail to remember the many kindnesses of Mr. William (Bill) Gardner, of Mr. Louis Roney, and of Major George Mappin. These are only a few of the many who have contributed so much to making what could be a depressing experience into a period to look back upon with something akin to pleasure.

It must be admitted, however, that these undertakings and extra comforts which cannot be expected from Governmental sources are expensive. Time, thought and money have been expended upon them and we would appeal to those who read these words to remember that even in these hard times no better object for financial help could be chosen than the Queen Victoria Maxillo-Facial Unit, East Grinstead. The beneficiaries will be the men of Dunkirk, the men "to whom so many owe so much," the men from the sea, the men of Malta, and of Libya, the men, women and children of a dozen bombed cities. There are no administrative charges. There is no better cause.

Finally, it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the Medical, Nursing, and Administrative Staffs, for their devoted work and willing co-operation throughout the year. Their achievement has been a notable one and has depended upon a strong sense of comradeship and a full understanding of the real team spirit. It is the spirit which compels Victory.

ARCHIBALD H. MCINDOE.

